

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 080827 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2863

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10230

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJECT: HUNGDEL ICCS ATTITUDES

REF: SAIGON 9360

1. SUMMARY. DURING JUNE 7 CONVERSATION, HUNGARIAN DEPUTY DELEGATE IMRE URANOVICZ REVIEWED FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF ICCS FROM HUNGDEL VIEW-POINT. HE VIEWED PARIS AGREEMENTS AS ENDING THE VIET- NAM WAR, BUT NOT A ESTABLISHING POLITICAL BASIS FOR THE PEACE. THE LATTER CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE CURRENT TALKS BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND LE DUC THO. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, PRG DESERTION RATES (AND HE BELIEVED ARVN AS WELL) HAD BEEN " TEN TIMES HIGHER" THAN AT PEAK PERIODS DURING THE CONFLICT. HE SAID THAT HUNGDEL SECOND SECRETARY BELA BENYEI WAS CURRENTLY ON PRG TURF PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS AS HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR. AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS AND GENERAL SZUCS LEAVE SAIGON THIS SATURDAY

FOR CONSULTATION IN BUDAPEST AND THEN RETURN TO SAIGON. END SUMMARY.

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2. URANOVICZ CHARACTERIZED THE JANUARY 27 PARIS AGREEMENT AS A HALF- WAY HOUSE BETWEEN ENDING THE VIET- NAM CONFLICT AND ESTABLISHING THE POLITICAL BASIS FOR AN ENDURING PEACE HERE. HE PINNED HOPES FOR THAT LATTER DEVELOPMENT ON THE TALKS NOW BEING CONDUCTED IN PARIS. HE SPOKE, AS USUAL, OF GVN " LAND GRABS" AS A JUSTIFICATION NOT ONLY FOR PRG MILITARY ACTIVITY, BUT ADMITTED THAT FOR THE SAME REASON HIS DELEGATION HAD COUNSELLED THE DRV TO STEP UP DELIVERIES OF MILITARY HARDWARE DURING MARCH AND APRIL. HE STATED HIS VIEW THAT HANOI' S INSISTENCE ON UNIFICATION OF VIET- NAM BY MILITARY MEANS WAS AVOIDABLE IF TALKS BETWEEN THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES COULD LEAD TO AN ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT PRG SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE MIGHT BE DISPLAYED BY A RETURN OF LT GEN TRAN VAN TRA TO SAIGON. URANOVICZ PRAISED THE CAPABILITIES OF THE PRG' S PRESENT TPJMC REPRESENTATION IN SAIGON, WHILE EVENTUALLY CONCEDING THE POINT.

3. ELABORATING ON HIS THEME THAT PRESENT CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS ARE ONLY AN INTERIM STEP TOWARD PEACE, URANOVICZ SAID THAT THERE WERE TWO DIFFERENCES DISCERNIBLE IN PRESENT SOUTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY ACTIVITIES, ON BOTH SIDES. FIRST, IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR BOTH PARTIES TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN ORDER TO COMBAT THE GROWING " PEACE MENTALITY" OF THE COMMON SOLDIER. URANOVICZ SAID IN THIS REGARD THAT THE PRG, AND HE BELIEVED THE GVN AS WELL, HAD SUSTAINED " TEN TIMES" THE LEVEL OF DESERTIONS THAT HAD OCCURRED DURING PEAK DESERTION PERIODS BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE. SECONDLY, HE THOUGHT THAT BOTH SIDES EMPLOYED FIGHTING AS A POPULATION CONTROL DEVICE- TO KEEP CIVILIANS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES FROM FREELY MOVING ELSEWHERE. HE ALSO MAINTAINED THAT AN IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN SOUTH VIET- NAM (THE FIRST TIME THAT HE HAS CONCEDED THIS) IS TO ASSIST THE PRG THROUGH CREATING AN " INFRASTRUCTURE", CITING WIDESPREAD ROAD CONSTRUCTION AS AN EXAMPLE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF' S QUESTIONS, URANOVICZ SAID THAT BELA BENYEI, HUNGDEL SECOND SECRETARY AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE, WAS CURRENTLY IN PRG TERRITORY PRESENTING LETTERS OF ACCREDITATION AS HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE PRG. (COMMENT: BENYEI, AGE 42, SPENT SIX YEARS AT THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS). HE CONFIRMED THAT AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS AND MAJOR GENERAL SZUCS WOULD BE LEAVING FOR BUDAPEST ON SATURDAY FOR CONSULTATIONS, AND SAID THAT THIS RETURN SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS ROUTINE, AND UNRELATED TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CURRENT IMPASSE IN THE ICCS PLENARY SESSIONS. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD RETURN TO BUDAPEST FOR CONSULTATIONS IN AUGUST. WHITEHOUSE

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